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ARMAGEDDON INFERNO

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HIS NAME IS ~~WAVE~~WAVEIDER. HIS MIND RIDES THE VERY TIME STREAM. HE HIMSELF IS NOW A PART OF THE TIME STREAM.

ONCE, HE WAS MATTHEW RYDER AND HE CAME FROM A BLEAK, HOPELESS FUTURE. HE USED THE EXPERIMENTS THAT MADE HIM INTO WAVEIDER TO COME BACK IN TIME, TO CHANGE THE EVENTS THAT LED TO HIS TIME. HIS CONTINUED EXISTENCE IS AN ANOMALY THAT SPEAKS OF BOTH HIS SUCCESS AND HIS FAILURE.



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THAT SUCCESS, THAT FAILURE, ARE BOTH BEHIND AND BEFORE HIM. HE HAS FACED DOWN ONE FORM OF ARMAGEDDON. HE IS ABOUT TO BE CONFRONTED WITH ANOTHER.

ARRRGHHH!

THAT FELT... LIKE I WAS BEING STABBED! THE TIME-STREAM ITSELF HAS BEEN RIPPED!

SOMEWHERE... SOMEWHEN... THERE'S SOMETHING TERRIBLY WRONG WITH THE VERY FABRIC OF TIME AND SPACE!

BY TRACKING THE REVERBERATION OF THE ASSAULT, I CAN FIND OUT WHERE AND WHEN IT'S TAKING PLACE--

BEFORE THE VERY FABRIC OF REALITY IS TORN ASUNDER!

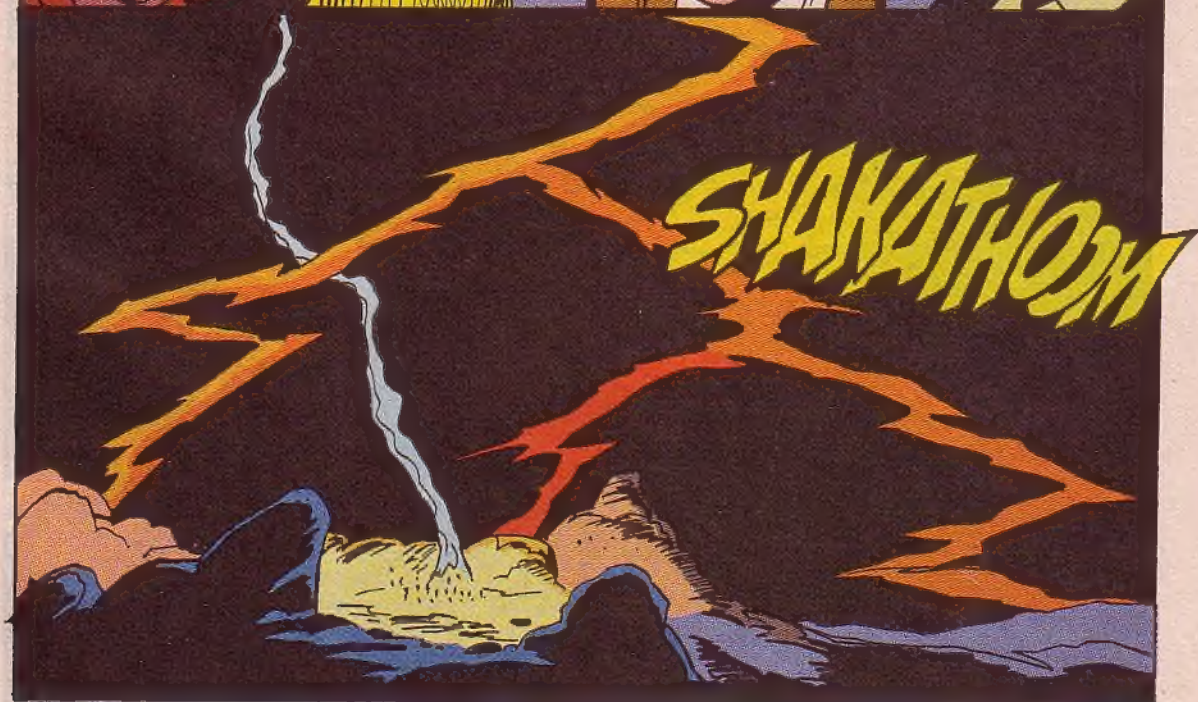
AT THE SOURCE OF THE DISRUPTION, A LITTLE KNOWN VALLEY IN WYOMING CALLED THE DEVIL'S BONES. PRESENT DAY.

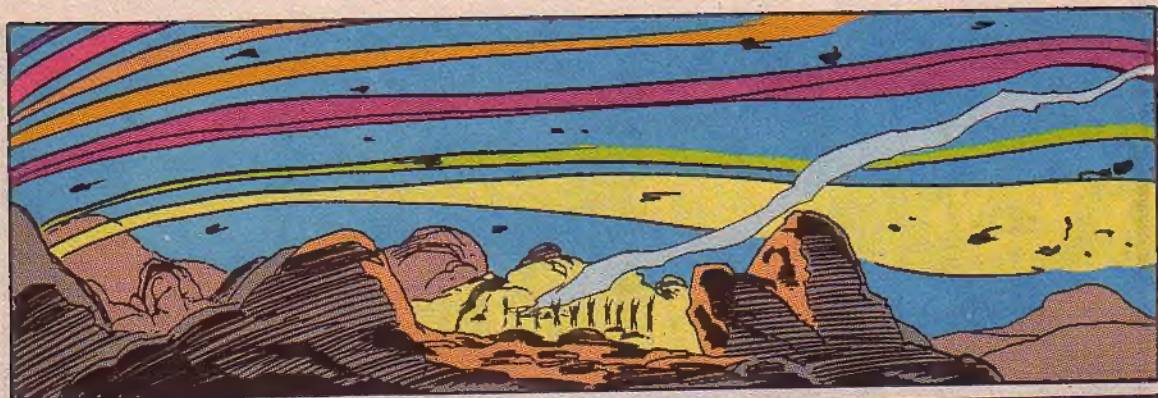
TWELVE GATHER HERE, DRAWN FROM ALL PARTS OF THE EARTH, NOT TRULY KNOWING WHY. TWELVE SULLEN, ANGRY SOULS, TWELVE PETTY, MEAN, VINDICTIVE SPIRITS, LOOKING FOR A GOD TO RECIPROCATATE THEIR HATE.

HAIL, ABRAXAS! IN OUR SOULS, WE HAVE HEARD YOUR WHISPERS AND THE PROMISES THAT YOU HAVE MADE TO US.

YOU KNOW THE DARK DREAMS, THE SECRET DESIRES, THE BITTER FANTASIES THAT FIRE US. WE OPEN OUR SOULS, LINKING THEM WITH YOU, CALLING YOU HERE.

THEY SPEAK, HESITANTLY, EACH IN HIS OWN TONGUE, AND FIND THEY ARE ALL SAYING THE SAME WORDS-- AN INVOCATION, AN INVITATION TO A BEING WHOSE NAME THEY ONLY NOW BEGIN TO SENSE AT THE PERIPHERY OF THEIR SOULS.



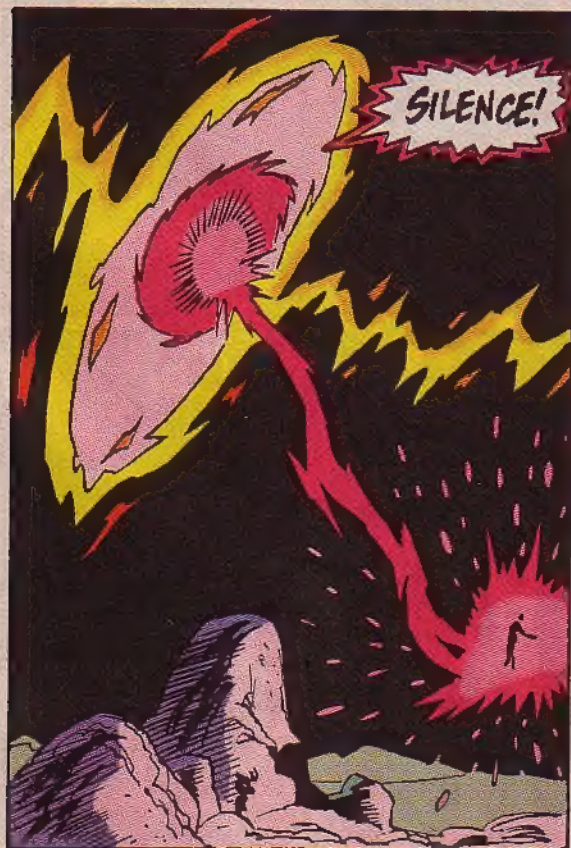


KKKKRAKKKKLLE!



KKKKRAKKADOOM

ABRAXIS
HAS COME.





BY A BEING OF
GREATER ENERGY.

HEAR ME, WHO
I HAVE CALLED TOGETHER!
IT IS TIME WE MADE
OUR PACT.

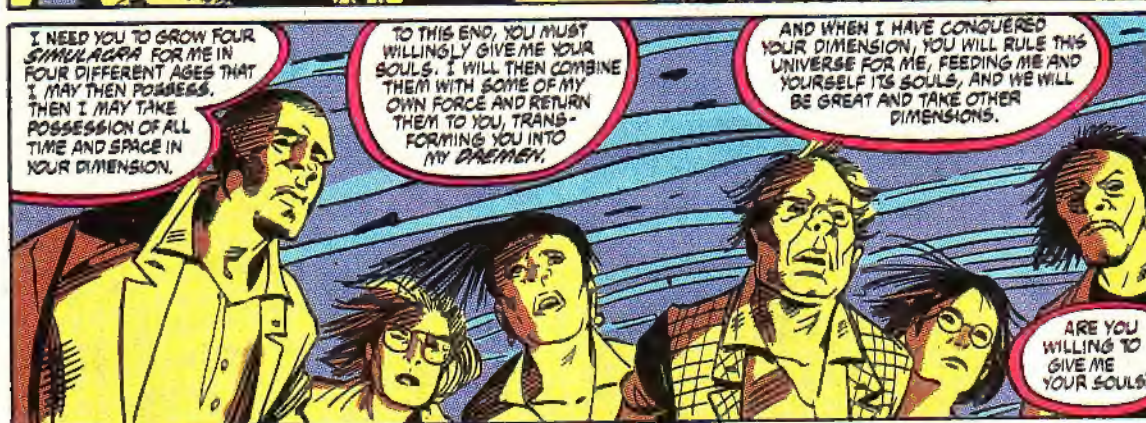


IN MY OWN UNIVERSE, I HAVE MADE
MYSELF SUPREME. I SUP UPON
SOULS AND THIS FEEDS MY
POWER.

THE CREATURES I RULE ARE BUT CATTLE
ON WHOSE SOULS I FEED. AFTER, THEY
ARE ONLY MINDLESS MASSES, DEVOID
OF ANY WILL SAVE MINE.

BUT I
HAVE GROWN
RESTLESS.

A BREACH
IN YOUR OWN TIME-
SPACE CONTINUUM BROUGHT
IT TO MY ATTENTION BUT I
CANNOT CROSS DIRECTLY
OVER AND RETAIN MY
POWER.



I NEED YOU TO GROW FOUR
SIMULACRA FOR ME IN
FOUR DIFFERENT AGES THAT
I MAY THEN POSSESS.
THEN I MAY TAKE
POSSESSION OF ALL
TIME AND SPACE IN
YOUR DIMENSION.

TO THIS END, YOU MUST
WILLINGLY GIVE ME YOUR
SOULS. I WILL THEN COMBINE
THEM WITH SOME OF MY
OWN FORCE AND RETURN
THEM TO YOU, TRANS-
FORMING YOU INTO
MY DAUGHTER.

AND WHEN I HAVE CONQUERED
YOUR DIMENSION, YOU WILL RULE THIS
UNIVERSE FOR ME, FEEDING ME AND
YOURSELF ITS SOULS, AND WE WILL
BE GREAT AND TAKE OTHER
DIMENSIONS.

ARE YOU
WILLING TO
GIVE ME
YOUR SOULS?



YES,
WE SO
WISH
IT.



NO! HOW CAN
YOU GIVE HIM YOUR
VERY SOULS?

THEY'RE NOT
MUCH TO GIVE FOR
WHAT WE CAN GET. AND
WE'VE HAD NOTHING.
WE'LL DO IT.

SO BE IT!

GAAAHN!

SCHRAAK! FWOOMP

IN TRIADS I
SEND YOU, MY
DAEMEN. WITH AUSAAS
WILL I SUPPLY YOU, TO
SUPPLEMENT YOUR
OWN POWER.

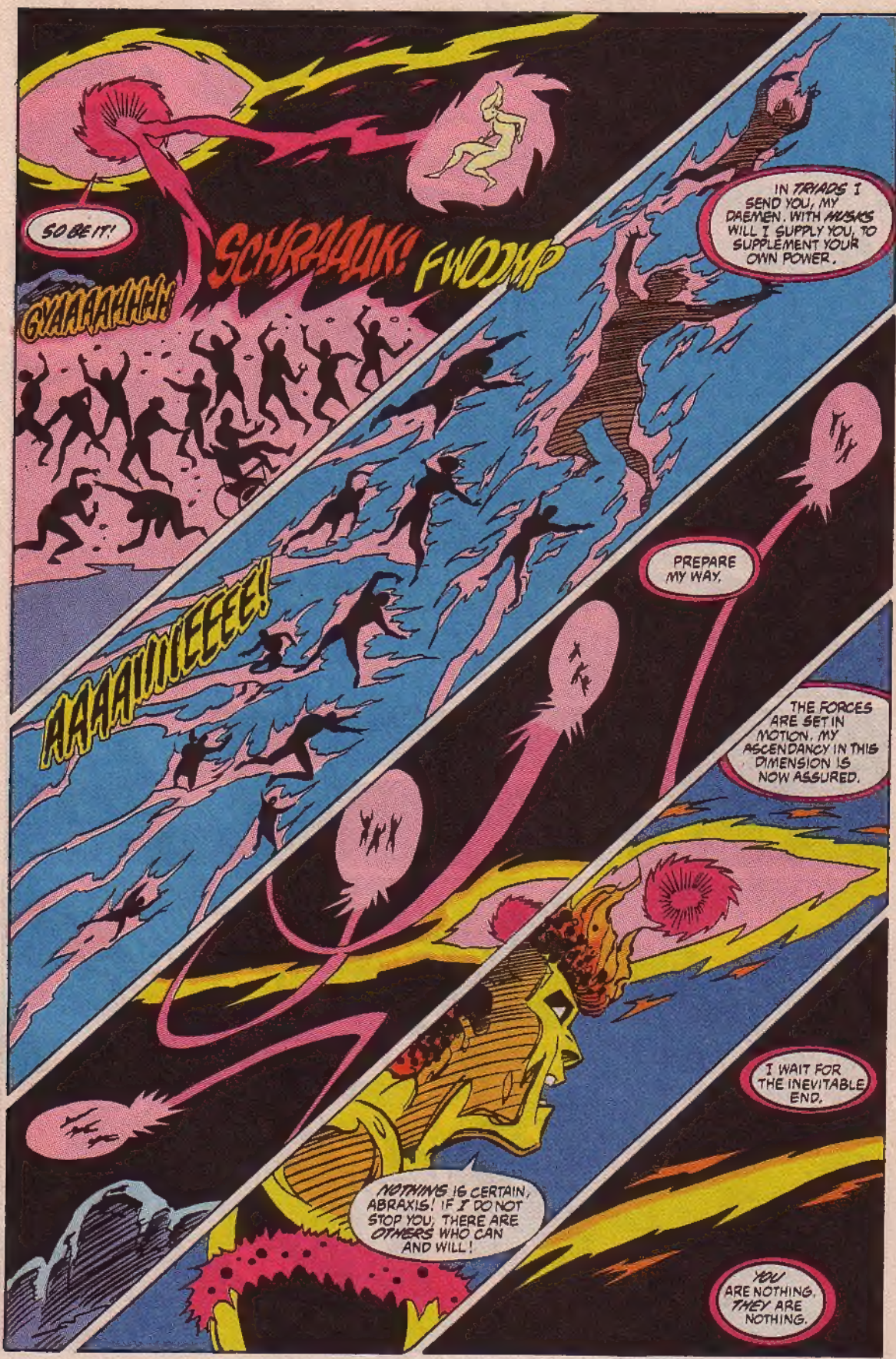
PREPARE
MY WAY.

THE FORCES
ARE SET IN
MOTION. MY
ASCENDANCY IN THIS
DIMENSION IS
NOW ASSURED.

I WAIT FOR
THE INEVITABLE
END.

NOTHING IS CERTAIN,
ABRAXIS! IF I DO NOT
STOP YOU, THERE ARE
OTHERS WHO CAN
AND WILL!

YOU
ARE NOTHING,
THEY ARE
NOTHING.





ARE WE, ABRAXIS?
ARE THERE LIMITS TO
YOUR POWER? PERHAPS,
WHILE YOUR ATTENTION
IS FOCUSED ELSEWHERE,
I CAN BREAK...

...FREE!

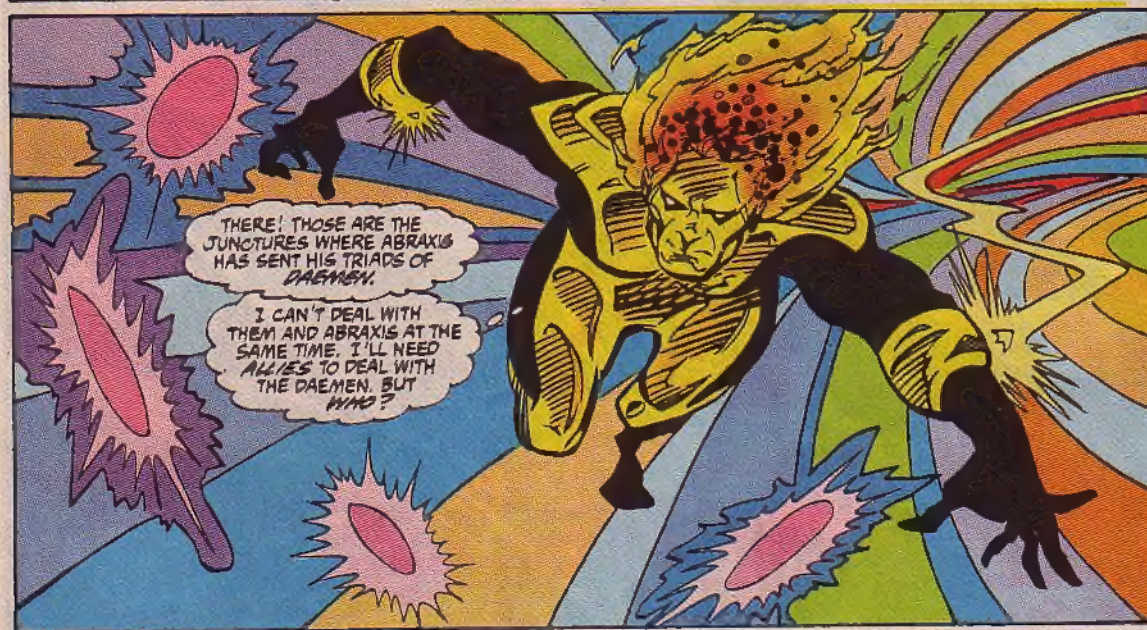


BUT THAT BREACH IN
THE TIME-SPACE CONTINUUM
YOU SPOKE OF-- THAT WAS
MY DOING, I FEAR!

INADVERTENT THOUGH IT MAY
HAVE BEEN, I HAVE MUCH TO ANSWER
FOR-- THE DEATH OF HEROES AND THE BIRTH
OF A MONSTER. NOW THIS AS WELL!

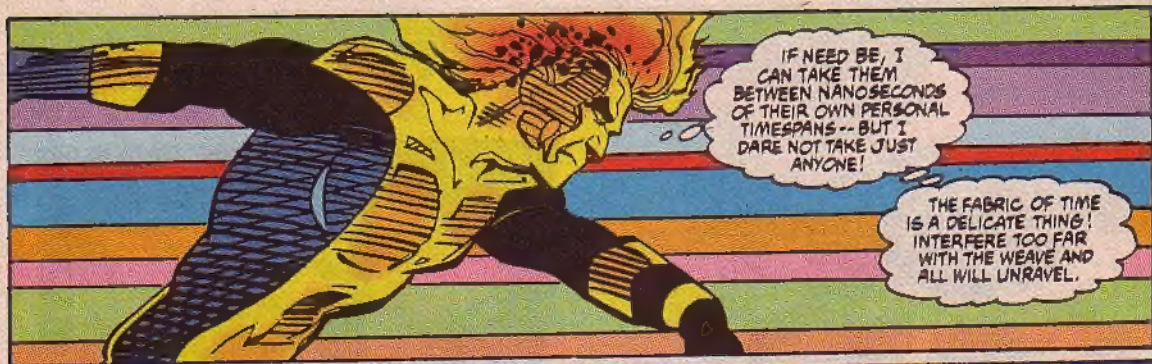


IF I AM THE CAUSE, I
MAY YET PROVE THE CURE!
FIRST, I MUST MERGE
BACK WITH THE TIME
STREAM!



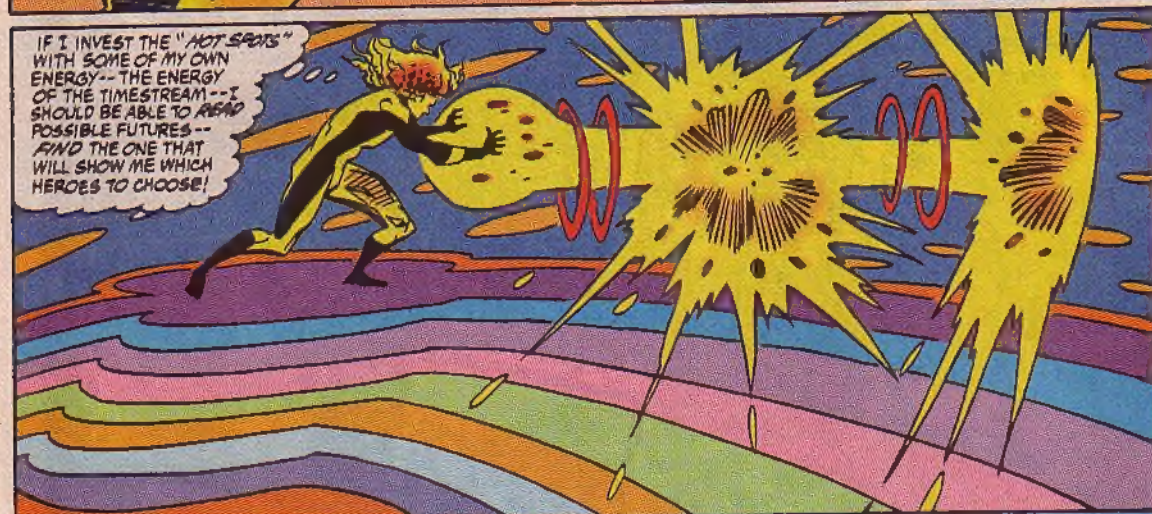
THERE! THOSE ARE THE
JUNCTURES WHERE ABRAXIS
HAS SENT HIS TRIADS OF
DAEMEN.

I CAN'T DEAL WITH
THEM AND ABRAXIS AT THE
SAME TIME. I'LL NEED
ALLIES TO DEAL WITH
THE DAEMEN. BUT
WHO?

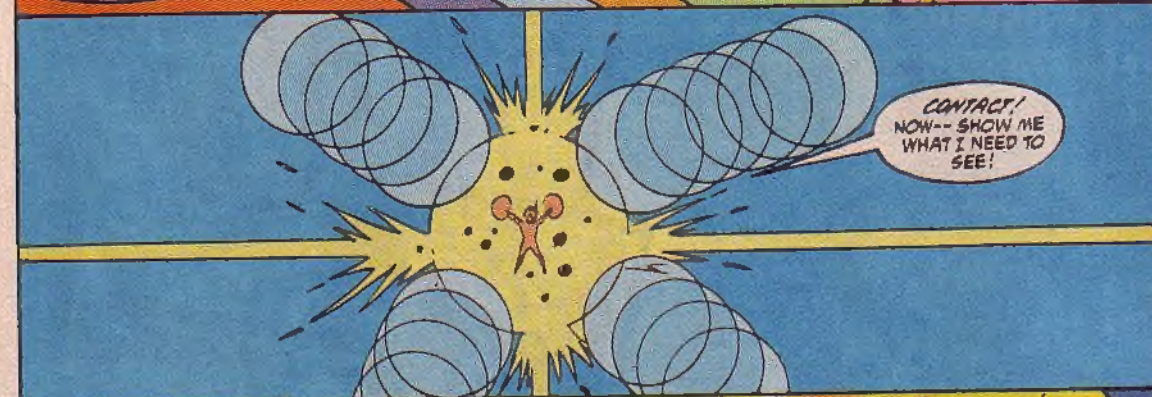


IF NEED BE, I
CAN TAKE THEM
BETWEEN NANOSECONDS
OF THEIR OWN PERSONAL
TIMESPANS-- BUT I
DARE NOT TAKE JUST
ANYONE!

THE FABRIC OF TIME
IS A DELICATE THING!
INTERFERE TOO FAR
WITH THE WEAVE AND
ALL WILL UNRAVEL.




IF I INVEST THE "HOT SPOTS"
WITH SOME OF MY OWN
ENERGY-- THE ENERGY
OF THE TIMESTREAM-- I
SHOULD BE ABLE TO READ
POSSIBLE FUTURES--
FIND THE ONE THAT
WILL SHOW ME WHICH
HEROES TO CHOOSE!



CONTACT!
NOW-- SHOW ME
WHAT I NEED TO
SEE!



SHOW ME!
SHOW ME THE
FUTURE I MUST
CHOOSE!




"INTO THE FUTURE--A TIME BEYOND THE ONE THAT CREATED ME--
THE TIME WHEN THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES LIES DORMANT.

"THEIR OWN TIMELINES
ARE IN FLUX IN THIS
PERIOD AND I DARE NOT
USE ANY OF THEM HERE,
ALTHOUGH ONE MAY BE
OF USE TO ME IN
ANOTHER TIME.

"INTO THIS TIME I SEE I CAN CALL THE
FOLLOWING-- SUPERMAN, WONDER
WOMAN, TROIA, FLASH, POWER GIRL,
AND MARTIAN MANHUNTER. AS GREAT
AN ASSEMBLAGE OF POWER AS SEEN IN
ANY ERA.

"WILL THEY BE
ENOUGH AGAINST
ABRAXIS?"

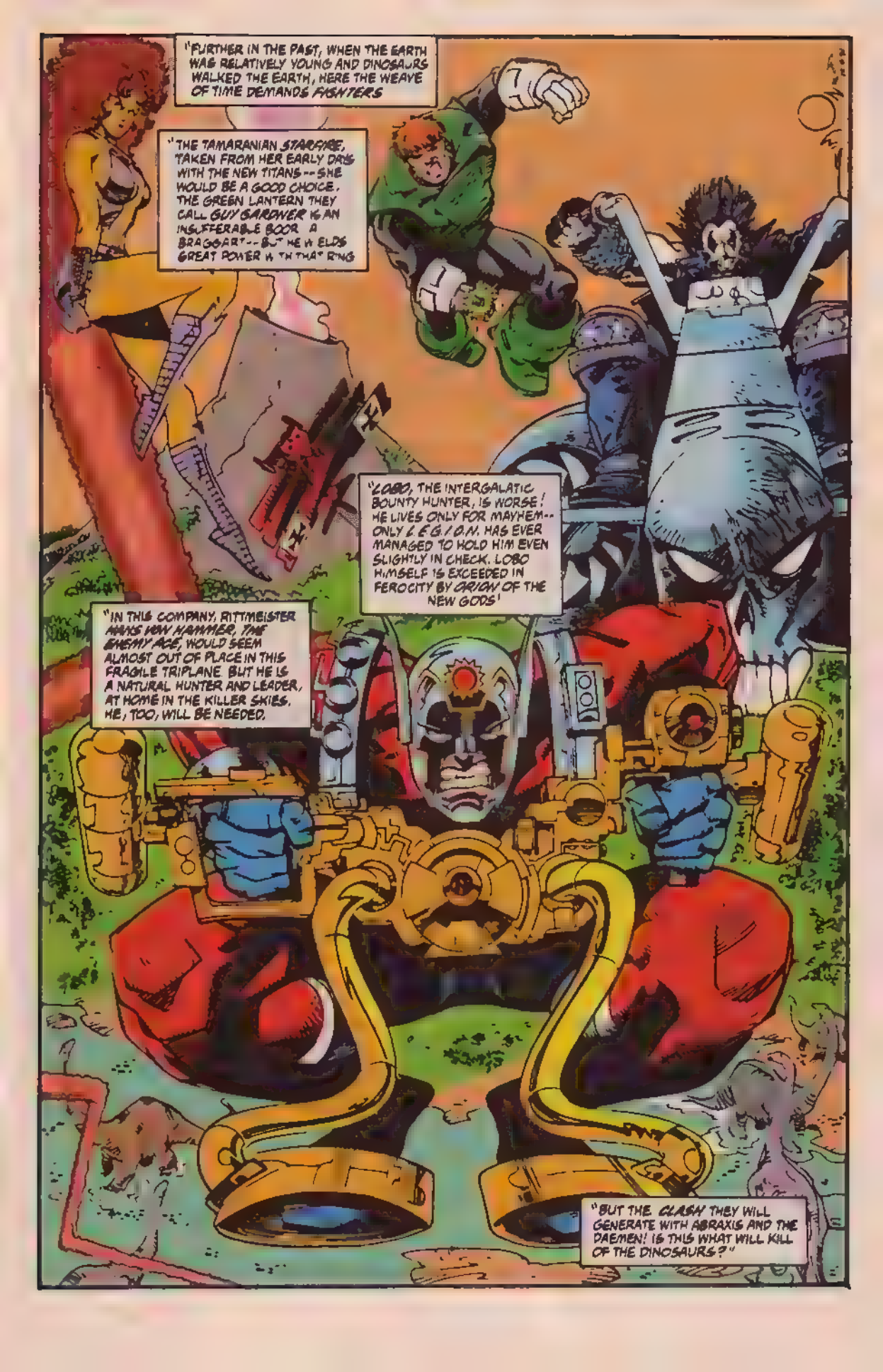


HERE DURING THE ERA THEY
CALLED THE SECOND WORLD WAR
MY CHOICES ARE FAR MORE
LIMITED. FOR SOME REASON, I
SEE I DARE NOT USE ANY TRUE
NETHUNYANS

"FOR THE MOST PART, I SHALL HAVE
TO RELY ON "HOUSE AND FOLLOWS"
THE WAR IN THAT ERA--SOLDIERS
SUCH AS SGT ROCK AND EASY
COMPANY, THE NAVAHO ACE THEY
CALLED JOHNNY CLOUD, THE TRIO
OF GUNNAR, SARGE, AND ARROY

"TWO OTHERS I MAY
SEND BACK FROM
THIS TIME--THE
THANAGARIANS KATAR
HOL AND SHAYERA
THAL, WHO HAVE BEEN
DUBBED HAWKMAN
AND HAWKWOMAN.

"PERHAPS THEIR ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY
CAN HELP STOP THE DAEHEM IN THIS ERA
BUT I HAVE GRAVE MISGIVINGS."




"FURTHER IN THE PAST, WHEN THE EARTH WAS RELATIVELY YOUNG AND DINOSAURS WALKED THE EARTH, HERE THE WEAVE OF TIME DEMANDS FIGHTERS

"THE TAMARANIAN STARFIRE, TAKEN FROM HER EARLY DAYS WITH THE NEW TITANS-- SHE WOULD BE A GOOD CHOICE. THE GREEN LANTERN THEY CALL GUY GARDNER IS AN INSUFFERABLE BOOR A BRAGGART-- BUT HE HAS ELDS GREAT POWER WITH THAT RING

"LOBO, THE INTERGALATIC BOUNTY HUNTER, IS WORSE! HE LIVES ONLY FOR MAYHEM-- ONLY L.E.G.I.O.N. HAS EVER MANAGED TO HOLD HIM EVEN SLIGHTLY IN CHECK. LOBO HIMSELF IS EXCEEDED IN FEROCITY BY ORION OF THE NEW GODS!

"IN THIS COMPANY, RITTEMEISTER HARKS NOW HAMMER, THE ENEMY AGE, WOULD SEEM ALMOST OUT OF PLACE IN THIS FRAGILE TRIPLANE BUT HE IS A NATURAL HUNTER AND LEADER, AT HOME IN THE KILLER SKIES, HE, TOO, WILL BE NEEDED.

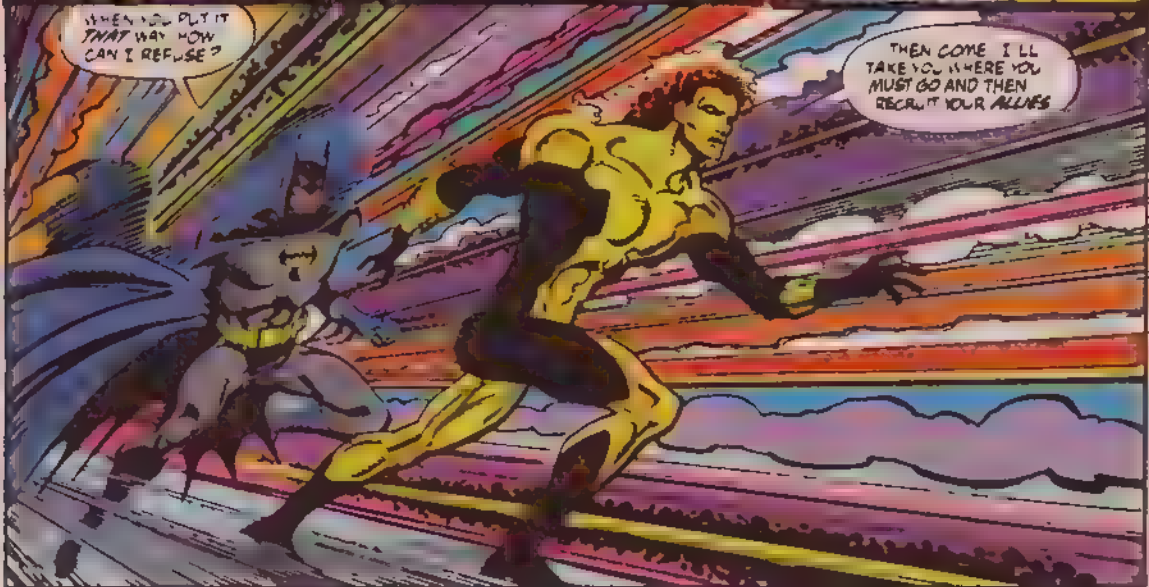
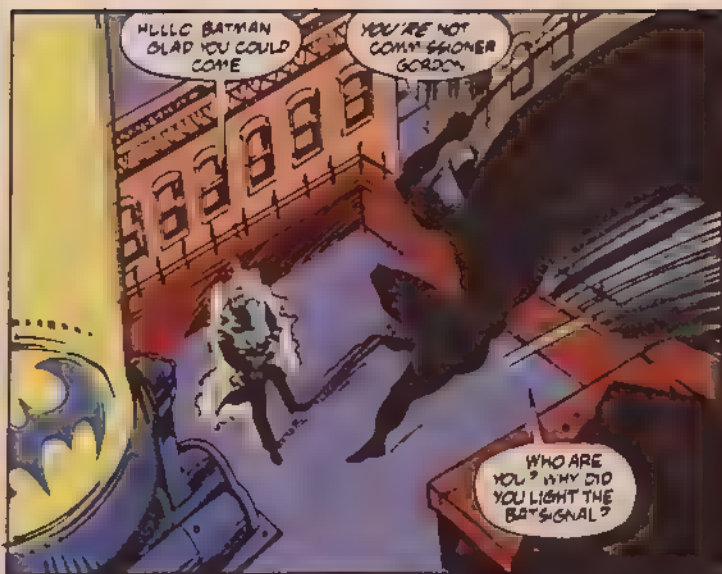
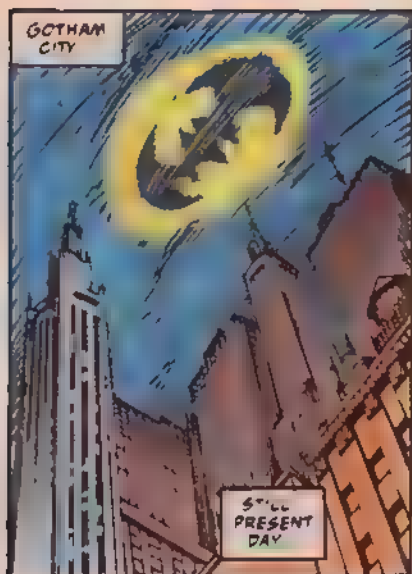
"BUT THE CLASH THEY WILL GENERATE WITH ABRAXIS AND THE DAEMEN! IS THIS WHAT WILL KILL OF THE DINOSAURS?"



HERE, IN THE RECENT PAST, I CAN SAFELY USE JONAH, WHO HAS ALSO BEEN CALLED ULTRA BOY, OF THE LEGION OF SUPER HEROES.

FROM HIS EARLIER YEARS, I MAY TAKE FIRESTORM AND FROM THE RECENT PAST, THE ONE THEY CALL THE GREENER. IF I CAN CONVINCE HIM, BATMAN WOULD MAKE A SOUND ADDITION. IF I CAN ADD HIM, THE SPECTRE WOULD BALANCE THE SCALES FOR POWER!

I'VE SEEN ENOUGH OUT OF ALL THE HEROES WHO EXIST. THESE ARE THE ONES I MAY SAFELY USE AND NOT WRECK THE FLOW OF TIME. I MUST MOVE SKIFFLY TO GATHER AND DISPATCH THE TEAMS--THE DAEEMEN HAVE ALREADY BEGUN THEIR TASKS. THE SEEDS OF DOOM HAVE BEEN PLANTED.

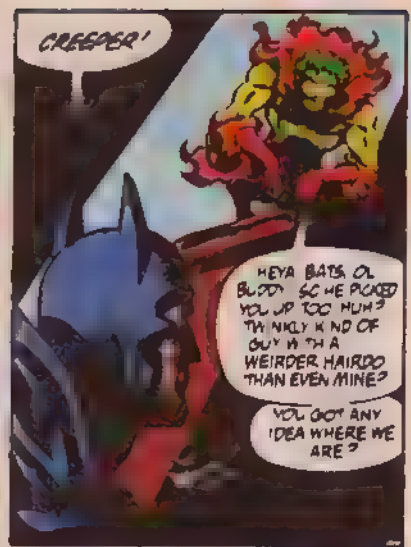




WELL, I'M NOT IN GOTHAM. THE QUESTION IS WHERE AM I--AND WHEN?

WAVERIDER INDICATED THESE TRIADS WOULD BE APPEARING AT DIFFERENT POINTS OF TIME--JUST AS HE WOULD BE PULLING MY "TEENHATES" FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE TIME STREAM.

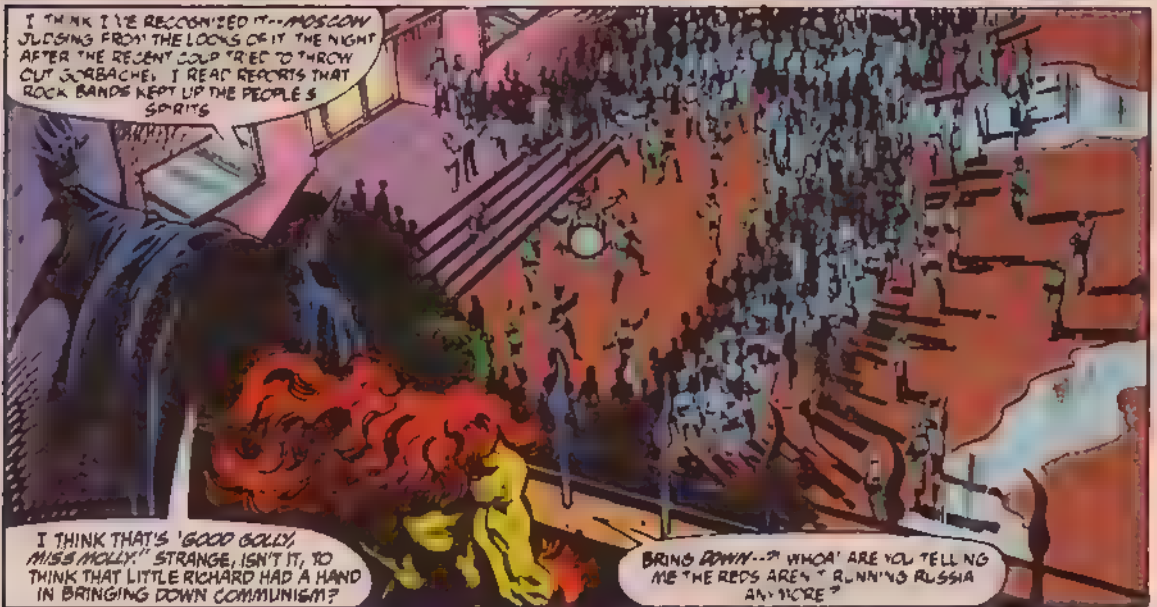
THAT LAUGH. I'D KNOW THAT LAUGH ANYWHERE!



CREEPER!

HEYA BATS OL BUDDY. SO HE PICKED YOU UP TOO HUH? THINKING KIND OF GUY WITH A WEIRDER HAIRDO THAN EVEN MINE?

YOU GOT ANY IDEA WHERE WE ARE?



I THINK I'VE RECOGNIZED IT--MOSCOW. JUDGING FROM THE LOOKS OF IT THE NIGHT AFTER THE RECENT COLD TRIED TO THROW OUT GORBACHEV. I READ REPORTS THAT ROCK BANDS KEPT UP THE PEOPLE'S SPIRITS.

I THINK THAT'S 'GOOD GOLLY, MISS MOLLY.' STRANGE, ISN'T IT, TO THINK THAT LITTLE RICHARD HAD A HAND IN BRINGING DOWN COMMUNISM?

BRING DOWN--? WHOA! ARE YOU TELLING ME THE REDS AREN'T RUNNING RUSSIA ANYMORE?



NEVER MIND. THIS ISN'T WHY WAVERIDER BROUGHT ME BACK IN TIME--OR YOU FORWARD.



THAT HOWEVER PROBABLY IS.



SHAKOON!

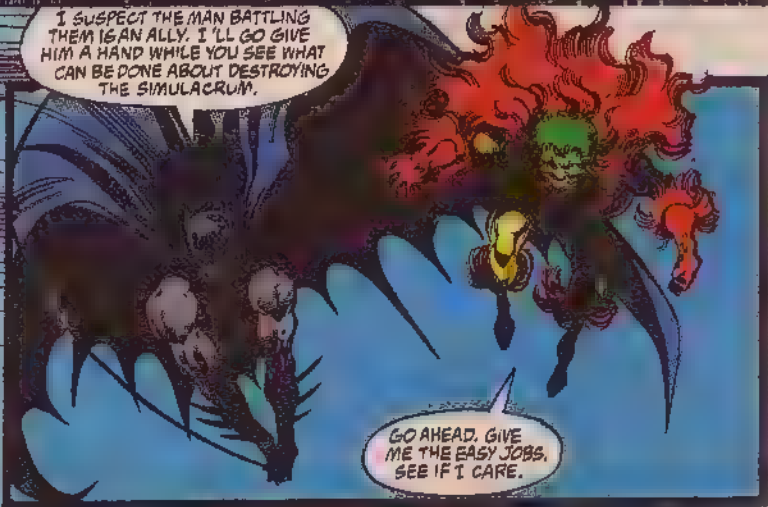


ANY IDEA WHERE WE'RE GOING?

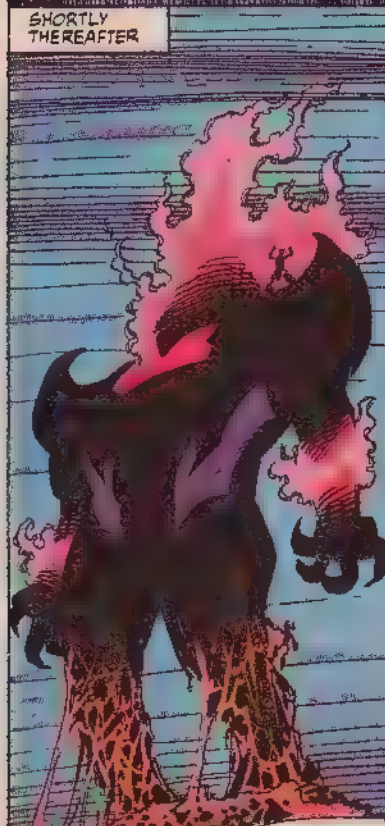
THE GENERAL D RECTION SEEMS TO BE GORRY PARK. KEEP UP IF YOU CAN.

SHORTLY THEREAFTER

I SUSPECT THE MAN BATTLING THEM IS AN ALLY. I'LL GO GIVE HIM A HAND WHILE YOU SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT DESTROYING THE SIMULACRUM.



GO AHEAD. GIVE ME THE EASY JOBS. SEE IF I CARE.



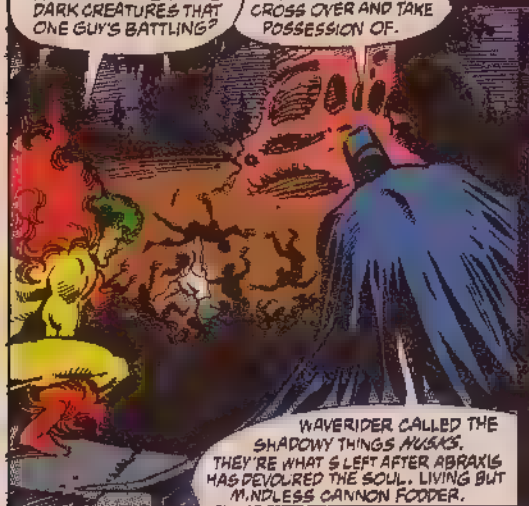
TIME TO GO INTO THE CREEPER ACT.

AVAAHIT, RASH MORTAL!

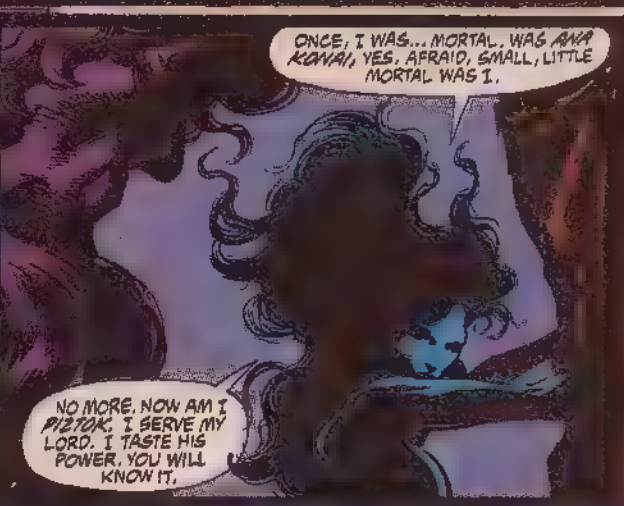
MORTAL-- NO

OKAY, I'LL BITE WHAT'S THE BIG THING AND WHAT ARE THOSE DARK CREATURES THAT ONE GUY'S BATTLING?

THE FORMER WILL BE ABRAXIS' SIMULACRUM-- A BODY THEY'VE PREPARED FOR HIM TO CROSS OVER AND TAKE POSSESSION OF.



WAVERIDER CALLED THE SHADOWNY THINGS MUCKS. THEY'RE WHAT'S LEFT AFTER ABRAXIS HAS DEVLORED THE SOUL. LIVING BUT M'NDLESS CANNON FODDER.



ONCE, I WAS... MORTAL. WAS ANA KONA, YES. AFRAID, SMALL, LITTLE MORTAL WAS I.

NO MORE. NOW AM I PISTON. I SERVE MY LORD. I TASTE HIS POWER. YOU WILL KNOW IT.



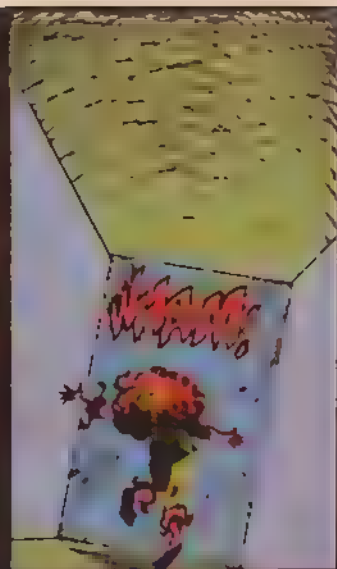
WHOA-NO!



LADY I DON'T KNOW
IF YOU'RE DOING THIS
TO ME PHYSICALLY
OR MENTALLY



NOR DO I MUCH CARE,
WITCH! YOU'RE JUST
ABOUT IN MY REACH...!



GREAT! JUST GREAT! YOU
PLAY THE SAME GAME
AND THEN THEY CHANGE
THE RULES



WHUPS! THIS
LAVA BED WASN'T
HERE A SECOND
AGO!



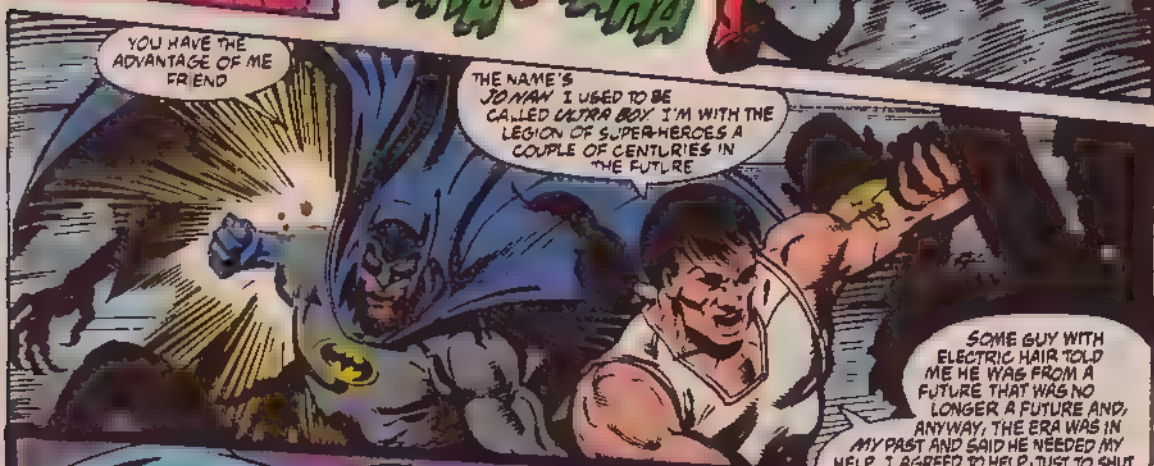
IT WAS HERE
CREEPING FORWARD A
MOMENT AGO



WOULD YOU
PLAY GAMES WITH
ME, RASH
MORTAL?

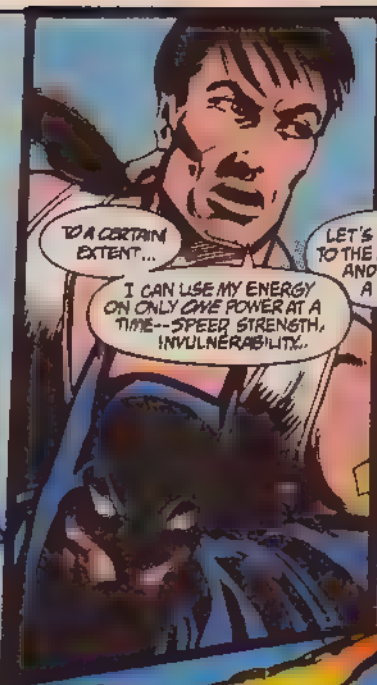
SHALL I
TRY SOME TRICKS
OF MY OWN?

HAHAHAHA





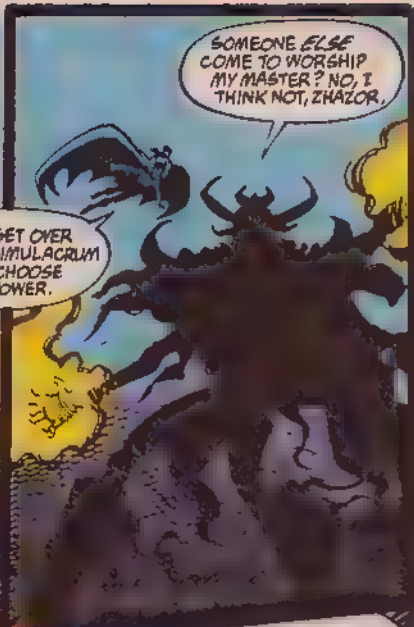
YOU CAN FLY??



TO A CERTAIN EXTENT...

I CAN USE MY ENERGY ON ONLY ONE POWER AT A TIME--SPEED, STRENGTH, INVULNERABILITY.

LET'S GET OVER TO THE SIMULACRUM AND CHOOSE A POWER.



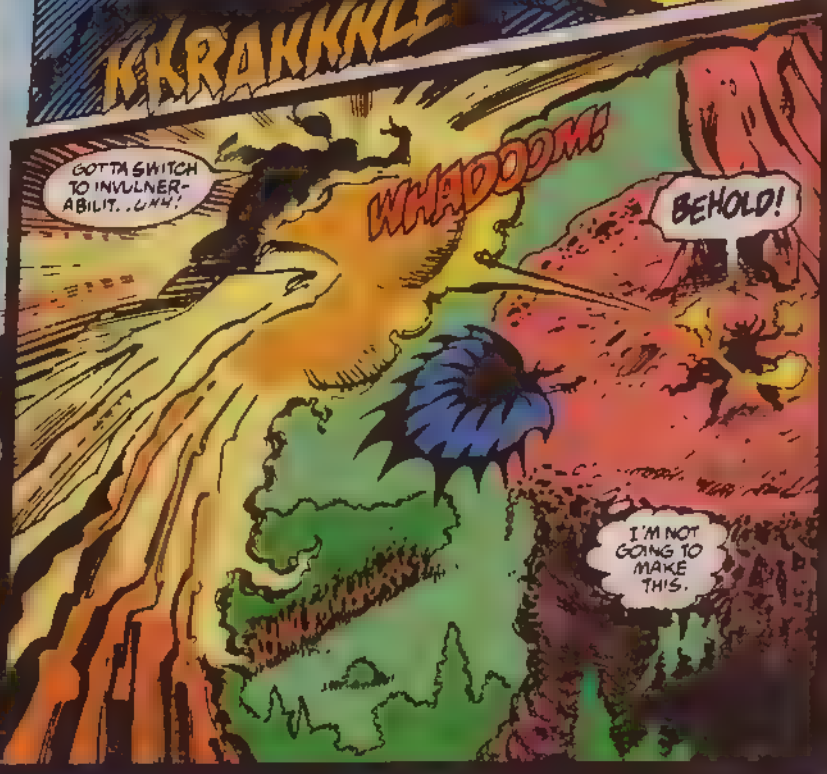
SOMEONE ELSE COME TO WORSHIP MY MASTER? NO, I THINK NOT, ZHAZOR.



ONCE THESE HANDS MOLDED CLAY TO CREATE ART BUT JAMES WHEDWEEZ WAS NEVER BETTER THAN MEDIOCRE.

NOW, AS ZHAZOR, I FASHION DEATH. MY TALENT HAS IMPROVED TENFOLD.

KKRAKKKLE



GOTTA SWITCH TO INVULNERABILITY... UHH!

WHADOOM!

BEHOLD!

I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE THIS.

A FELLOW JUSTICE LEAGUER
BECAME A RED SMEAR
NEAR RED SQUARE, EH?

FIRESTORM! FROM THE
LOOKS OF HIM, FROM BEFORE
HE LEARNED HE WAS A FIRE
ELEMENTAL AND WENT THROUGH
ALL HIS CHANGES.

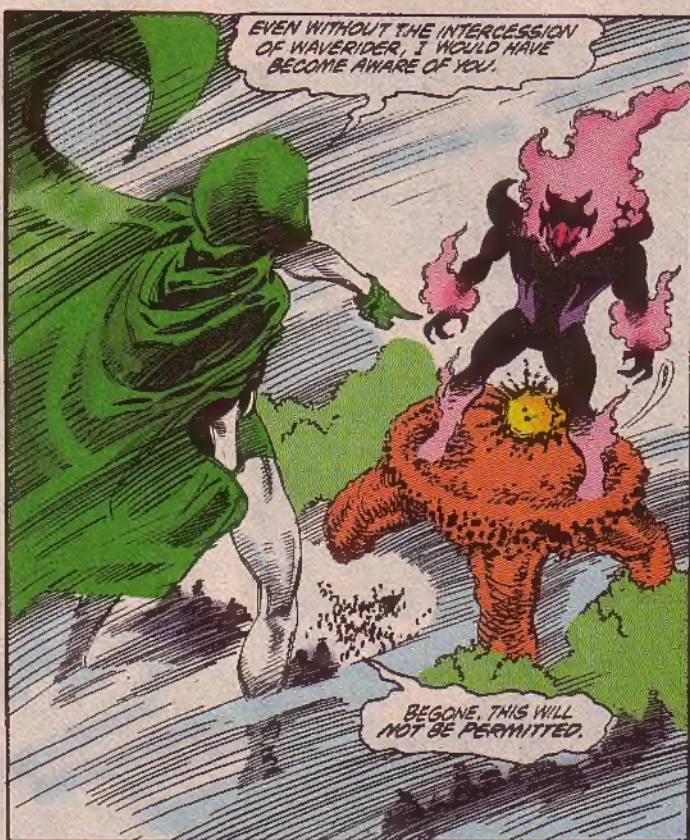
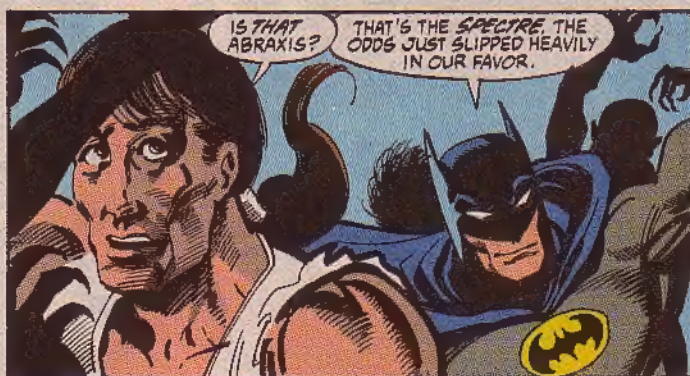
WHAT'S THE SCAM,
BATMAN?

LET THE JOY
WITH THE BURNING
HAPPY END THEN
DE'S THE
SUNSHINE!

DEAD IS
DEAD
BATMAN

YES

BUT HE RE NOT
DEATHS THE JOB
DONE AND I SET THE
FEELING HE RE
PLANNING TO BE
THE BUT NOT
ANOTHER



BEGONE. THIS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED.

YEW DON'T PERMIT IT, HUM? THET KINDA TALK
MIGHTA IMPRESSED TH' HELL CUTA OL'
ZENK MURDOE, BUDDY!

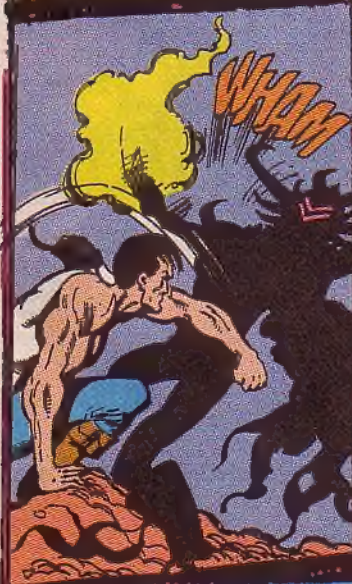
TH' HANDLE'S NOW
GULGAK, AND AH AM
HELL, AND I DON'T
MUCH CARE WHAT YOU
WILL OR WON'T
ALLOW!

BLEWAPRRGGW

PERHAPS... I HAVE UNDERESTIMATED
YOU... AND THE OTHERS, GULGAK.
BUT YOU ALSO DO NOT
UNDERSTAND ME!

THIS MYSTIC SHIELD WILL
TURN YOUR FIRE-- BUT
NOTHING WILL TURN
ASIDE MY WRATH!

LET THE FINAL
CONFRONTATION
BEGIN!



WELL DONE, MY DAEMEN! THE TASK IS COMPLETED, THE TIME IS RIPE, THE BATTLE IS CONSUMMATED.

ABRAXIS IS COME!

BATMAN? ARE WE IN TROUBLE?

YES.

CONTINUED--

